

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

ACTIVITY USED FOR

SUBJECT Soviet Activity along the Iranian Border

DATE DISTR 27 SEP 51

NO. OF PAGES 9

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF
INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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A detailed report of Soviet activity along the Iranian border for the period
20 to 30 April 1951 follows. A summary of military activity for a portion
of this period was distributed

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1. Pol Dasht

24 April 1951, 1200
1500, 1800
hours

Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: Four
trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 57 closed cars,
two carloads of planks, three coal cars, 28 kerosene
cars, 33 carloads of jeeps, and four cars containing
boxes.

1700 hours

Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: One
train composed of 17 closed cars and ten kerosene cars.

1400 hours

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: One
train composed of two closed cars, 12 kerosene cars, and
four cars containing jeeps.

0700, 2400
hours

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two
trains of unknown make-up.

1200, 1500,
1600 hours

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: Three
trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 22 closed cars,
six coal cars, four carloads of planks, three empty cars,
and two kerosene cars.

25-26 April

Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: Seven
trains composed of 30 passenger cars, 26 kerosene
cars, 122 closed cars, three carloads of planks,
seven carloads of iron cases and iron poles, four
carloads of stone, and 14 carloads of autos.

Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan: Two
trains composed of 15 passenger cars and 44 closed
cars.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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Pol Dash continued-

night Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan. Two trains of unknown make-up.

Westbound rail traffic, Dzghulfa to Nakhichevan. Four trains composed of 12 passenger cars, 29 closed cars, four carloads of planks, and 14 carloads of jeeps.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzghulfa. Two trains composed of 19 closed cars, 15 coal cars, and four carloads of logs.

night Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzghulfa. Three trains of unknown make-up.

27 April Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan. Three trains composed of 14 passenger cars, seven travelers (lit) cars, seven carloads of trucks, nine closed cars, and eight carloads of iron poles.

2200 hours Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzghulfa. One train of unknown make-up.

1700 hours Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzghulfa. One train composed of eight coal cars and 20 empty cars.

1800 hours Westbound rail traffic, Dzghulfa to Nakhichevan. One train composed of eight carloads of autos, ten kerosene cars, and seven closed cars.

1200 hours One train composed of 12 passenger cars, 12 kerosene cars, five coal cars, and three closed cars went from Dzghulfa to Nakhichevan and returned.

28 April Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan. Two trains composed of 16 passenger cars, nine carloads of lumber, two coal cars, and 18 closed cars.

night Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan. One train of unknown make-up.

Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan. Two trains composed of six passenger cars, 12 empty cars, 2 carloads of iron cases, three kerosene cars, and 12 closed cars.

night Eastbound rail traffic, Yerevan to Nakhichevan. One train of unknown make-up.

Westbound rail traffic, Dzghulfa to Nakhichevan. Two trains composed of 12 carloads of jeeps, nine kerosene cars, nine carloads of iron poles, and ten closed cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzghulfa. One train composed of 12 closed cars, five carloads of agricultural machinery, and seven coal cars.

29 April 1100 hours Two truck-drawn 105 mm artillery pieces moved from Shah Takhti to the front of the Pol Dash railroad station. From there the guns were moved behind a ruined house.

1230 hours One armored car went from Shah Takhti to Dzghulfa and from there moved to the heights east of the railroad station where it was hidden behind the heights.

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Fol Dasht continued-

1230 hours One artillery piece of unknown caliber from Shah Takhli was shipped to the railroad station.

1300 hours Twenty armed soldiers went from Shah Takhli to the post of Fol Dasht.

30 April

Westbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Yerevan: Four trains composed of five kerosene cars, 11 carloads of wooden poles and one cart of ammunition, 57 closed cars, four carloads of planks, two carloads of weapons carriers, 14 passenger cars, ten carloads of autos, and 31 carloads of soldiers.

East and westbound rail traffic, between Nakhichevan and Yerevan: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, two boxcars, nine kerosene cars, and 29 closed cars.

Westbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two trains composed of four carloads of jeeps, seven coal cars, two carloads of logs, ten closed cars, 12 carloads of planks, eight carloads of wooden poles, and six carloads of sand.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa: One train composed of four passenger cars; one train of unknown make-up.

2. Dzhulfa

24 April

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: One passenger train; three freight trains composed of 64 boxcars, four kerosene cars, and 21 gondolas containing autos, wood, lumber, and coal.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: One passenger train; one freight train composed of 16 boxcars, five kerosene cars, and six gondolas.

night

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Two trains of unknown make-up.

25-26 April

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two passenger trains; 13 freight trains composed of 53 boxcars, nine kerosene cars, and 72 gondolas of which three were loaded with autos, 12 were loaded with trucks, and the rest were loaded with coal, lumber, and large cases.

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Three trains composed of 73 boxcars, 32 kerosene cars, and 12 gondolas.

night

Eastbound rail traffic, Nakhichevan to Dzhulfa to Ordubad: Four trains of unknown make-up.

0900 hours

Westbound road traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa: Eleven trucks carrying one (sic) 105 mm gun.

27 April

Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two passenger trains, two freight trains composed of 53 boxcars, three kerosene cars, and 23 gondolas carrying one crane, coal, and lumber.

Direction unstated: One train composed of 26 boxcars, nine kerosene cars, and 13 gondolas of which one was loaded with trucks and the remainder were loaded with iron.

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Dzhulfa continued-

night Direction unstated: Three trains of unknown make-up.
About 50 Soviet troops engaged in rifle firing practice.

2000 hours About 202 white rockets were fired at Dzhulfa.

20 April Westbound rail traffic, Ordubad to Dzhulfa to Nakhichevan: Two freight trains composed of ten gondolas, 11 kerosene cars, and 51 boxcars.

Direction unstated: Two passenger trains.

night Direction unstated: Three trains of unknown make-up.

3. Sia hul

24 April 0800, 1600 hours Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Three trains composed of 16 passenger cars, 63 boxcars, 12 cars loaded with lumber and two autos, and two kerosene cars.

1100, 1500 hours Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, 26 boxcars, and 15 gondolas loaded with one auto and lumber.

25-26 April Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Six trains composed of 61 covered cars, 47 gondolas, eight kerosene cars, two carloads of stone, 44 passenger cars, and four cars carrying armed soldiers.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Five trains composed of 136 covered cars, 41 gondolas, 45 kerosene cars, and 36 passenger cars.

27 April Westbound rail traffic, towards Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, five of which were full of armed soldiers, 11 covered cars, one kerosene car, one gondola loaded with motors, and nine gondolas loaded with wooden poles.

1200, 1400 1600 hours Direction unstated: Three trains composed of 15 passenger cars carrying armed soldiers, 40 covered cars, 12 kerosene cars, 12 gondolas loaded with sand, and 12 carloads of engines.

1700 hours Direction unstated: One switch engine pulling one car loaded with a heavy machine gun.

28 April Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: One train composed of 15 passenger cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Two trains composed of 15 passenger cars, 45 freight cars, 20 covered cars, ten kerosene cars, and five gondolas loaded with five generators.

30 April Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Three trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 44 covered cars, 18 gondolas loaded with carts, planks, and autos, and 15 kerosene cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Two trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 21 covered cars, one gondola, and one kerosene car.

4. Khuda Afari

24 April Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Two trains composed of 21 freight cars, 13 passenger cars, 18 gondolas, and 12 kerosene cars.

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Khuda Afarin continued-

0700 hours

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 11 freight cars, six kerosene cars and 26 gondolas containing wood, coal, ten autos, and two cranes.

25-26 April

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Four trains composed of 11 passenger cars, 54 boxcars, 57 gondolas loaded with wood, iron, and coal, and seven kerosene cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Three trains composed of 13 passenger cars, 21 boxcars, 28 gondolas, and 19 kerosene cars.

27 April 0800, 1600,
1800 hours

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Three trains composed of 13 passenger cars, 67 boxcars, 21 gondolas, and 22 kerosene cars.

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: One train composed of 32 boxcars, four covered cars, and eight gondolas containing coal and wood.

28 April

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 41 freight cars, one kerosene car, and 47 gondolas carrying wood, coal, and tractors in two cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Dzhulfa to Baku: Two trains composed of 13 passenger cars, three freight cars, and 29 gondolas.

30 April

Westbound rail traffic, Baku to Dzhulfa: Two trains composed of 14 passenger cars, 12 boxcars, eight gondolas containing coal, and four kerosene cars.

Direction unstated: Two trains composed of 25 boxcars, ten gondolas, 15 kerosene cars, and 14 passenger cars.

5. Gara

25 April

roads have been constructed behind the posts in the area. To each post in this area, a number of cavalry soldiers have been added. Underground shelters and observation towers are being constructed between the posts. The towers are being placed about 200 to 300 meters away from the posts. At night patrols consist of groups of eight to ten soldiers.

29 April

At 0300 hours a truck stopped at the Soviet post opposite the Iranian post of Uman (possibly Umaschan). The truck remained all night, and the next morning orders were issued that deep trenches be dug. Heavy cases were brought up to the trenches by truck.

6. Namin

24 April

Trenches were dug at Shalecheran.

Three trucks with unidentified loads arrived at Anburdarreh, coming from Farzi Kandi.

28 April

One cart carrying white boxes, in charge of an officer, arrived at Kazyar post and delivered two boxes of rockets to each watch tower.

Soviet soldiers conducted rifle and machine gun firing practice at the posts of Leji and Sadafarin.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Astara

24 April

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: Two motorcycles, three autos, and 21 trucks with unknown contents.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: Three trucks and two cars.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: One jeep, three trucks, and four cars carrying one officer, 20 armed soldiers, and logs.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: One truck carrying an unknown load in addition to two barrels; one armed soldier riding a bicycle, and two armed soldiers riding horses.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: Two trucks carrying one officer, three soldiers, and two civilians; hay, and wood; one civilian riding a bicycle; one soldier on horseback.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: One auto and three cars carrying six officers and nine unarmed soldiers.

One sergeant and one armed soldier visited the machine gun nest at Masjed Mahalleh.

Twelve rockets, two of which were white and ten of which were red, were fired at Haider Mahalleh and Qambar Mahalleh posts.

Searchlights were turned on 11 times at the post of Rudkhan, the garrison in Astara, and from behind the Health Department in Astara.

25-26 April

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: Twenty-three trucks, two autos, and one motorcycle.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: One auto, nine trucks, two cars; one group of infantry soldiers; one truckload of soldiers.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: Two jeeps and one car carrying one officer, 16 armed soldiers, and ten unarmed sergeants; one truck carrying armed soldiers; one truck carrying telegraph poles.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: Five trucks carrying telegraph poles, sheep, hogs, dogs, sand, and five boxes of ammunition; one truck carrying unarmed soldiers; one sergeant riding a bicycle.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: Two jeeps, six trucks, and one motorcycle carrying four officers, six unarmed soldiers, one sergeant, telegraph poles, tables, chairs, and sheep; one truck carrying civilians.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: One jeep, one ambulance, two motorcycles, five cars, and three trucks carrying three officers, three armed soldiers, 12 unarmed soldiers, four male civilians, one woman, stone, sand, and telegraph poles; two mounted soldiers.

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Astara continued-

One green rocket was fired at Khoshkeh Baharoh. Two white rockets were fired opposite Bagchen Sareh. Thirty-eight white rockets were fired at Haidar Mahalleh and the coast. Five colored rockets were fired opposite Qala Khali. A shower of machine gun bullets was also fired.

0900-1300
hours

Fourteen civilians came to the bridge and dug in the ground beneath the bridge.

1100-1300
hours

Twelve salvos of guns were fired at Bagchen Sareh.

27 April

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: Four jeeps and 24 trucks carrying 12 officers, 65 armed soldiers, and food; one truck carrying armed soldiers; one group of armed infantry soldiers.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: One jeep, three trucks, and two carts carrying two officers, 54 unarmed soldiers, and wood.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: Two motorcycles, two trucks, and three carts carrying three officers, 45 armed soldiers, and two civilians; one group of armed infantry soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: Two jeeps, three trucks, six officers, 42 unarmed soldiers, and six civilians; one truckload of unarmed soldiers.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: Two trucks and five carts carrying eight unarmed soldiers, sand, lime, and wood.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: Two trucks and two carts carrying 19 unarmed soldiers and three women.

Four white rockets were fired at Hudkinar. Six white and 1 red rocket were fired at Haidar Mahalleh.

Searchlights were turned on seven times during the night.

28 April

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara: Seven jeeps carrying two officers, 11 trucks.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: One auto, four trucks; two groups of armed infantry.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: Two trucks carrying 23 unarmed soldiers, two sergeants, two boxes, and two barrels; one truck carrying men and women soldiers.

1600 hours

One auto and one jeep went from Astara to the Qapchi Mahalleh post. Two officers got out of the jeep and inspected the post.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: One truck, two motorcycles, and one cart carrying two officers, two barrels, and several boxes, 20 unarmed soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: Four jeeps, two trucks, and two carts carrying eight officers, 26 unarmed soldiers, and wood.

1000-1600
hours

Fourteen persons worked under the bridge at Astara.

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Astara continued-

Eleven rockets were fired at Haidar Mahalleh, at the garrison in Astara, and on the coast.

During the night searchlights were turned on 17 times.

29 April

Southbound road traffic, Lenkoran to Astara:

Twelve trucks with unknown contents, one jeep carrying two officers and several soldiers, two groups of armed infantry soldiers.

Northbound road traffic, Astara to Lenkoran: A number of empty trucks; six trucks full of armed soldiers; two groups of unarmed soldiers.

Westbound road traffic, Astara to Masjed Mahalleh: Two trucks and one motorcycle carrying two officers, 23 unarmed soldiers, and gunny sacks full of foodstuffs; three cavalry soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to Astara: One truck carrying 20 unarmed soldiers.

Westbound road traffic, Masjed Mahalleh to the last post west: One motorcycle carrying two civilians; two truckloads of soldiers, one empty truck; one sergeant and two infantry soldiers.

Eastbound road traffic, the last post west to Masjed Mahalleh: Three jeeps and one truck carrying four officers and several unarmed soldiers.

Seven white and one red rocket were fired at Haidar Mahalleh. Seven rockets were fired at Bagchen Sarch.

Searchlights were turned on 16 times during the night.

Soldiers cleaned connections between trenches and Qapchi Mahalleh and Masjed Mahalleh.

8. Lutfabad

20 April 0900 hours

Two infantry soldiers inspected the frontier at a spot about 100 meters from the border.

1200 hours

A machine which looked like an armored car stopped at a post about 200 meters from the border and a number of soldiers entered it.

1530 hours

One truck carrying four soldiers and one artillery piece moved along the border.

26 April

Rifle training and firing practice took place at the posts in this area. The number of guards at the posts in the area has been increased.

26-27 April

Westbound rail traffic, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: Twelve trains composed of 118 passenger cars, 114 kerosene cars, and 87 freight cars of which ten were loaded with autos, 36 carried wood, three carried aircraft parts, 16 were loaded with iron, and the remainder were covered.

Eastbound rail traffic, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: Fourteen trains composed of 62 passenger cars, 208 kerosene cars, and 21 freight cars of which eight were loaded with wood, five were loaded with iron, and the rest were covered.

night

East and westbound rail traffic, between Kaakha and Ashkhabad: Four trains of unknown make-up.

Nineteen of the locomotives observed were diesel types.

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Lutabad continued-

28-29 April

Westbound rail traffic, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: Fifteen trains composed of 82 passenger cars, 310 kerosene cars, 23 carloads of iron, three cars loaded with cuto, and 105 covered cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: Fourteen trains of unknown make-up.

30 April

Westbound rail traffic, Kaakha to Ashkhabad: Nine trains composed of ten passenger cars, 225 kerosene cars, ten carloads of wood, 20 empty cars, and 45 covered cars.

Eastbound rail traffic, Ashkhabad to Kaakha: One train composed of 14 passenger cars, 143 kerosene cars, 12 carloads of iron, and 33 covered cars.

night

Last and westbound rail traffic, between Kaakha and Ashkhabad: Four trains of unknown make-up.

Eight of the locomotives observed were diesel types.

9. Sarakhs

24 April

Barbed wire continues to be laid in the direction of Shir Tappeh (36-00N, 61-07E).

Seven trucks arrived at Pul 1 Khaton (35-17N, 63-08E) via Shir Tappeh, and then returned to Gazgaxik (not located).

One aircraft landed at Sarakhs airport, and took off again two hours later. Soviet reconnaissance planes have been constantly flying along the frontier in this area.

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